

UNIT 1 Review – Foundations of American Democracy

The AP Exam measures **content** knowledge and **skills**, and consists of a 55-question **multiple choice** section (50% of the total exam score); and a four-questions **free response** section (50% of the total exam score). Learn about the AP [exam format](#). **Unit 1** content will be covered on **15-22% of the multiple choice questions**. Unit 1 content and skills will be measured in at least 1 of the 4 free response questions.

Content Topics (details about the unit 1 content knowledge on page 37 of the [CED](#).)

1. Ideals of Democracy
2. Types of Democracy
3. Government Powers & Individual Rights
4. Challenges of the Articles of Confederation
5. Ratification of the U.S. Constitution
6. Principles of American Government
7. Relationship Between State & Federal Government
8. Constitutional Interpretations of Federalism
9. Federalism in Action

Need to Know

- Definition of Democracy
- Problems with Articles of Confederation
- How Constitution addressed problems
- Battles over Constitution
- Battles over state and federal power
- Federalism today

Skills (details about the AP Government skills on page 16 of the [CED](#).)

- Define democracy and evaluate the ways in which the U.S. is and isn't democratic
- Evaluate the flaws of the Articles of Confederation
- Describe the solutions to the Articles' problems found in the U.S. Constitution
- Analyze the compromises of the Constitutional Convention and their consequences
- Explain the echoes of the battles over the US Constitution in contemporary America
- Describe the battle between the Federalists & Anti-Federalists
- Describe the amendment process of the US Constitution
- Compare the key components of federal, confederal, and unitary governments
- Describe the state of federalism in contemporary American politics

Required Supreme Court Cases

- [McCulloch v. Maryland, 1819](#)
- [United States v. Lopez, 1995](#)

Landmark Supreme Court Case Rubric

Required Documents

- [The Declaration of Independence](#)
- [The Articles of Confederation](#)
- [The Constitution of the U.S.](#)
- [Federalist No. 51](#)
- [Brutus No. 1](#)
- [Federalist No. 10](#)

Foundational Documents Graphic Organizer

UNIT 1 Review – Foundations of American Democracy

Big Question

What is democracy, and how democratic is the United States?

Terms and Concepts

The AP exam is not a vocabulary test but you should understand the following terms and concepts. It is particularly valuable to know how the terms below relate to current political events (scenarios).

1. **Natural rights**
2. **Representative democracy**
3. Constitutional democracy
4. Participatory democracy
5. Pluralist democracy
6. Elite democracy
7. Social contract
8. State of nature
9. Constitutionalism
10. Statism
11. Popular consent
12. Majority
13. Plurality
14. Popular sovereignty
15. Limited government
16. Theocracy
17. **Declaration of Independence**
18. **Articles of Confederation**
19. Shay's Rebellion
20. Bicameralism
21. Virginia Plan
22. New Jersey Plan
23. Connecticut Compromise
24. Three-fifths Compromise
25. Madison
26. Hamilton
27. **Federalists**
28. **Anti-Federalists**
29. Factions
30. Liberty
31. The Federalist papers
32. **US Constitution + Bill of Rights**
33. Separation of powers
34. **Checks and balances**
35. Divided government
36. Impoundment
37. Direct primary
38. Referendum
39. **Judicial review**
40. Impeachment
41. Executive privilege
42. Custom and usage
43. Devolution revolution
44. **Federalism**
45. Unitary system
46. Confederation
47. Block Grants
48. Categorical Grants
49. Express powers
50. Implied powers
51. **Necessary and proper clause**
52. Inherent powers
53. Commerce clause
54. Federal mandates
55. Concurrent powers
56. Full faith and credit clause
57. Extradition
58. Interstate compact
59. National supremacy
60. Unfunded Mandate
61. Preemption
62. Centralists
63. Decentralists
64. Revenue sharing

Our [GoPoPro Unit 1 Glossary](#) will help you complete your [Total GoPo Vocab List](#)
Download our [High Five Exam Prep](#) and get AP Exam-ready!

UNIT 1 Review – Foundations of American Democracy

Short Answer Practice

1. What conditions are necessary for democracy to work?
2. What were the major weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?
3. How did the U.S. Constitution address those weaknesses in the Articles?
4. Analyze the differences between the New Jersey and the Virginia plans.
5. List the main disagreements between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists:
6. List some of the main changes in the structure of our government since the writing of the Constitution:
7. What are the main points of the Federalist no. 10 and no. 51?
8. What is the importance of McCulloch v Maryland?
9. What are some alternatives to federalism?
10. What are the main arguments of the centralist versus decentralist debate?
11. According to John Locke's idea of the social contract, people give up their perfect liberty in order to gain a bit of security. Why do they do this? Have we given up too much liberty?
12. Give an example of a block grant and explain how block grants work.
13. What is the difference between a block grant and a categorical grant?
14. Based on trends over the past decade or two, what do you predict will happen regarding the size and power of the national government in relation to the states?
15. Is it fair to call our current country the **United** States?
16. What would the Framers think of our political system today? Would they all agree?
17. How different would our government be today if there was no **10th Amendment**.
18. Is our country getting more democratic?
19. James Madison said, "If all men were angels, no government would be necessary." What did he mean? Explain whether government makes us less angelic or more.
20. What is the difference between unitary, confederal, & federal systems and what are two pros and cons of each system?
21. What does the legalization of marijuana have to do with federalism?
22. According to Rousseau, Man is born free, and yet everywhere he is in chains. What did he mean and what would Rousseau say about the US today?

Matching Practice (take a longer [online version](#) of this with answer key)

Which is it? Match the description with the correct answer.

Demanded a Bill of Rights **Federalists or Anti-Federalists?**

Wanted a strong central government **Federalists or Anti-Federalists?**

Mostly urban **Federalists or Anti-Federalists?**

Preferred states to be center of power **Federalists or Anti-Federalists?**

Wrote essays in support of the new Constitution **Federalists or Anti-Federalists?**

Hamilton, Madison, Jay **Federalists or Anti-Federalists?**

Hancock, Henry, Adams **Federalists or Anti-Federalists?**

Are you Exam Ready?

 Check out the GoPoPro [Student Exam Prep Portal](#)

UNIT 1 Review – Foundations of American Democracy

Multiple Choice Practice (see answers at bottom of next page)

1. All of the following were concerns about the Articles of Confederation that led to the calling of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 EXCEPT:
 - A. Dissatisfaction over safeguards of individual rights and liberties
 - B. Fear for the stability of the central government
 - C. Desire to promote trade among the states
 - D. The need to give the central government the power to levy taxes
 - E. Dissatisfaction with the central government's ability to provide national defense
 - F. Eminent attack by Hungarian navy

2. According to the Constitution, treaties must be ratified by
 - A. The House
 - B. The Senate
 - C. Both Houses of Congress
 - D. The President
 - E. The Supreme Court Chief Justice
 - F. Beyonce

3. The distinguishing feature of democracy is that government authority is derived from:
 - A. The notion of divine right
 - B. Religious beliefs
 - C. The people
 - D. An aristocracy
 - E. Checks and balances
 - F. Its beautiful singing voice

4. Which of the following powers are given to both the state and national governments?
 - A. Coin money
 - B. Tax
 - C. Establish post offices
 - D. Declare war
 - E. Conduct foreign relations
 - F. Twerking

5. The Framers preferred which term to describe the system of government they were establishing:
 - A. Democracy
 - B. Monarchy
 - C. Representative aristocracy
 - D. Republic
 - E. Biggie Smalls-agarchy

UNIT 1 Review – Foundations of American Democracy

Try this (bonus work, yay!) Skills and Content Practice

Foundational Documents Claim or Mind Map

Do one of the following

1. Make a claim. Of the primary sources we have read so far, which has had the most lasting impact on the American political system. Support your claim with two reasons.
 - [The Declaration of Independence](#)
 - [The Articles of Confederation](#)
 - [The Constitution of the United States \(Bill of Rights & Amendments\)](#)
 - [Federalist No. 51](#)
 - [Brutus No. 1](#)
 - [Federalist No. 10](#)

- Or -

2. Make a [mind map](#) of **each** of the foundational documents listed above.

Content and Skills Practice (makes better)

- **Review** - with our [Unit 1 Backgrounder Review](#).
- **Play** - this fun [Foundational Documents Matching Game!](#) + [Bill of Rights Practice](#)
- **Connect** - content to current events (scenarios - FRQ #1) with a [journal review](#).
- **Practice** - [making claims](#) about your unit 1 content.
- **Think** - through our [Unit 1 Hexagonal Thinking Review](#) & [explain your thinking](#)
- **Workshop** - our [Practice FRQ #1](#) will help you prepare for the AP Exam.
- **Write** - [Practice FRQ #1 with Unit 1 content](#) and score with scoring guidelines.
- **Test** - our [Unit 1 mini-practice test](#) (with key) to see if you are good to GoPo.
- **Check out** all these [Required Supreme Court Cases](#) and resources.
- **Check out** all these [Required Documents](#) and resources.

★ Here is our list of the [Top Ten Exam Review Ideas](#)

[9](#) [Required Documents](#)

[Required Supreme Court Cases](#)

Multiple choice answers to questions on previous page

1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-B, 5,-D


UNIT 1 Review – Foundations of American Democracy


Need more help?

Download our [High Five Exam Prep](#) and get AP Exam-ready!

Learn more about our one-on-one [AP Government exam tutoring](#) + schedule a session now.

[100 GoPoPro Student Prep Portal](#)

[9](#)  Required Documents

 [Required Supreme Court Cases](#)

 [All the Unit Reviews Bundle](#)

SAMPLE